

Ned K O'Doherty
~ 177 Galtier Place ~ Shoreview ~ Minnesota ~ 55126 ~

January 15, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

As a very satisfied user of Microsoft products and customer service, I would like to add my support for settling the Federal lawsuit after the public comment period ends later this month. I believe any further action would compromise the free market, as the idea of a break up or other extreme measure to rectify lack of competition in the industry was truly over the line.

Having seen the terms of the agreement, I support many of the gestures made in the settlement and see this deal as a fair compromise. The measures to provide an open architecture to competitors, not discriminate against computer makers utilizing non-Microsoft software programs and offer a uniform price list for licensing the Windows operating system to the top 20 computer manufacturers, all seem like good steps to guaranteeing free competition to all. As someone facing anti-competitive tactics in the pharmaceutical industry, the benefits of a uniform price structure have definitely resonated the most.

Now that a settlement has been reached and Microsoft is offering such a wide range of positive measures to give competitors more than their fair chance in the marketplace, I hope the Justice Department will accept this deal and move on to more pressing issues. Any more action would hurt businesses, consumers and the country. Thank you.

Sincerely,

